



Early-Bird Registration Closes Tomorrow, May 4th!

Please see our **updated draft agenda** for session updates.

CONGRESS BRIEF

House Passes FAA Reauthorization

Last Friday, the House passed its FAA reauthorization bill by a 393-13 vote. The bill provides funding for FAA through 2023 and contains several provisions unrelated to aviation, including trucking hours-of-service and a provision for expanding FEMA's work to prepare communities for disasters. The bill also includes an amendment that was adopted by voice vote from Representative Jason Lewis (R-MN) that would impact the board composition of the Metropolitan Council in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, which **NARC and AMPO jointly opposed**. The Senate plans to take up its bill before the August recess. The current program extension expires at the end of September.

Letter from Senate Appropriations to Secretary Chao

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Chairman Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI) sent a letter to Secretary Chao regarding the BUILD grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcement. They applauded the program's \$1.5 billion funding level but expressed concern over changes USDOT made to the grant program. Their primary concern is the use of non-federal revenue for investment as merit criteria for evaluating applications. They state that "holding transportation agencies responsible for raising revenue is simply unrealistic and detrimental to this grant program." The lawmakers are also concerned that the look-back period punishes states that have raised their own gas tax prior to January 1, 2015 — as Maine and Rhode Island have done. They close the letter by urging the removal of unnecessary barriers to funding infrastructure projects going forward.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Secretary Perry Announces Funding for Advanced Vehicle Technologies Research

Energy Secretary Rick Perry recently announced \$68.5 million in funding through the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for early-stage research of advanced vehicle technologies. Projects selected through this Vehicle Technologies Office funding opportunity will address one of five topics, including batteries and electrification, technology integration, and co-optimization of engines and fuels. The goals of this opportunity are to improve transportation efficiency and reliability by enhancing economic growth and enabling affordable mobility.

FHWA TPM Guidance

FHWA has published two resources to help state DOTs understand target setting. The second national performance measure regulation requires FHWA to determine the minimum bridge condition level for each state and whether a state DOT has made significant progress towards the achievement of its bridge condition targets. *FHWA Computation Procedure for the Bridge Condition Measures* is a new resource for states.

Additionally, the *Average Vehicle Occupancy Factors for Computing Travel Time Reliability Measures and Total Peak Hour Excessive Delay Metrics* resource provides average vehicle occupancy (AVO) factors for computing Travel Time Reliability measures and Total Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) metrics.

Focus on Freight: Article 3 - Delivering the Goods

Freight tonnage across all modes is expected to increase by 50 percent by 2040, increasing pressure on transportation infrastructure and metropolitan areas in particular. This USDOT article outlines strategies to implement in preparation for the growth of goods movement and provides information on USDOT's activities in the topic area. One big freight challenge in metro areas is loading zone management. Strategies such as off-hour delivery and alternative pickup and delivery locations can help reduce loading zone congestion and insufficiencies. Safety concerns are also a priority and focusing on driver training and vehicle features can help increase safety for all modes. Overall, USDOT states that working together with local stakeholders and the freight industry will be essential to preparing for the future of freight.

REGIONS BRIEF

MAPA Wins Three APA Awards

The Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) recognized the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) with awards for two projects in addition to the APA Planning Agency Award for its overall work. The **Omaha Metropolitan Area Online Bicycle Map** won the Transportation Plan Award. The interactive map helps the community find routes for biking through the city and provides information on the current trail system and street network.

Nashville Voters Overwhelmingly Reject Transit Referendum

On Tuesday, 64 percent of Nashville voters voted against raising taxes to fund a transit system. The transit plan was supported by former Mayor Megan Barry and current Mayor David Briley and would have raised sales tax, hotel-motel tax, business and excise tax, and car rental tax to fund \$5.4 billion in transit infrastructure. The plan included light rail lines, rapid buses, and a 1.8-mile underground tunnel. Opposition efforts focused on framing the plan as benefitting downtown when the traffic problem is regional. The city is required to wait one year before bringing back a similar referendum to voters and Mayor Briley said that he will work to create a solution that the city can agree on.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Assistant or Associate Planner

San Joaquin Council of Governments, Stockton, CA

CEO

Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Bangor, ME

Transportation Planning Director

Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Flagstaff, AZ

Executive Director

Lake-Sumter County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Leesburg, FL

RFP: Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan Update 2018

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Dayton, OH

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list of opportunities!](#)

TRB Webinar: Who's Riding TNCs and What Does It Mean for Public Agencies?

May 15, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

This research explores how transportation network companies (TNCs) such as Uber and Lyft are affecting the use of public transit and personal automobiles in several regions by drawing on several sources, including one of the first uses of TNC trip origin-destination data. The webinar will outline key findings and insights from this research about how, when, and where TNCs are most frequently used, and the relationship between this use, public transit usage, and driving commutes. The presenters will also provide a range of recommendations that may assist public transit agencies and other public entities attempting to engage with TNC services in large, midsized, and smaller urban areas.

Racial & Economic Disparities in Residential Proximity to PM Emission Sources: A National Analysis

May 15, 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

This research sought to quantify nationwide disparities in residential proximity to particulate matter (PM)-emitting facilities by race/ethnicity and poverty status. EPA found that those in poverty had 1.35 times higher burden from PM_{2.5} emissions than the overall population, and non-Whites had 1.28 times higher burden. Blacks, specifically, had 1.54 times higher burden than did the overall population. These patterns were relatively unaffected by sensitivity analyses, and disparities held not only nationally but within most states and counties as well. Because disparities for Blacks are more pronounced than disparities of poverty status, both race and socioeconomic status need to be considered in efforts to address inequitable PM burdens across populations. This webinar will discuss the research and findings.

How to Use ACS Geodatabase Files and ArcMap Webinar

May 16, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Discover the richness of American Community Survey (ACS) data when you learn how to map it. This webinar will cover background information about the ACS, as well as how to join ACS data with a layer of geography by downloading a geodatabase file, opening the file in ArcMap, and joining the ACS data table to a feature class.

LED Webinar: Interactive Web Mapping Applications for Transportation Planning using LODES Data

May 16, 1:30 – 2:30 PM ET

The U.S. Census Bureau and the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership in collaboration with the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER), are hosting a webinar with Dr. Pramod Sambidi. Dr. Sambidi will demonstrate two interactive applications developed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) to analyze the socioeconomic characteristics of regional workforce and their commute patterns. H-GAC's Regional Employment Snapshot Tool uses the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) Workplace Area Characteristics data to provide a quick summary of key workplace employment characteristics for a user defined geography, while the Commuting Patterns Tool uses the LODES data to illustrate commuting patterns in the Greater Houston area workforce.

CTPP Policy Changes on Small Geography

Comments due by May 16

The Census Bureau has proposed criteria for geography for the 2020 census in the Federal

Register. The criteria are open for comment until May 16, 2018. The **Census Transportation Planning Products** (CTPP) is submitting comments for “Block Groups for the 2020 Census-Proposed Criteria” (83 FR 6937) and “Census Tracts for the 2020 Census-Proposed Criteria” (83 FR 6941).

NARC Webinar! Fleets for the Future: Best Practices for EV Charging Infrastructure

May 31, 12:30 – 1:30 PM ET

Fleets for the Future (F4F) is a national project team of regional councils, Clean Cities coalitions, and industry experts tasked with coordinating regional and national procurement initiatives to consolidate bulk orders of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and infrastructure. Please join the F4F team on May 31 to learn about electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), using telematics for infrastructure planning, and best practices for education and technology. There will be time for Q&A following the presentation.

TRB 2019 Call for Papers: Passenger and Freight Mobility in U.S. Megaregions

Submissions due August 1

The TRB Sub-committee on Megaregions invites paper submissions for the 2019 TRB Annual Meeting. The USDOT’s 30-year framework for the future, *Beyond Traffic 2045: Trends and Choices*, highlights the significance of megaregions to the nation’s future. Three-fourths of U.S. jobs and population will concentrate in the eleven megaregions by 2050. The anticipated growth of seventy million people over the next thirty years will largely occur in the megaregions, along with increased demand for passenger and freight mobility on a mega scale. While mobility problems occur locally they often originate beyond local jurisdictions with their sources crossing regional, state, or even national boundaries. The Sub-committee is interested in papers on all topics related to passenger and freight transportation issues crossing multi-jurisdictional boundaries in megaregions.

CONTACT US

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